

Transcription of Podcast 311: John MacDonnell

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SPEAKERS

Johnny Goodrum, John MacDonnell, Kathy Lindstrom

Note: This transcription was computer-generated and may contain typographical errors.

John MacDonnell 00:10

Okay, Sun City Shadow Hills, Big John here. Wow, wow, wow, wow, wow. Well, that's all I can say. There are so many events and things that are going on in our community that I don't know that we're ever going to have a break here. I mean, we're making up for lost time here I think. We have so much going on. The Lifestyles desk is working so hard to put so many different things together for us to be able to get out and have a great time, be with our friends, be with our family. It's just amazing. One of the things that we had this weekend was the golf cart parade, the holiday parade, that the lifestyles put on, and we had 43 carts. And I gotta tell you, it brought a tear to my eye, because I'm telling you right now, to see the effort that the people of this community put into those carts, it blew my mind. Every time we have a parade, everybody spends so much time taking moments of their family time to build these carts. Build them together sometimes. And we had amazing carts out there. I'm telling you, it was a great time. We had the pom pom girls out there, We had Santa Claus out there, we had Mrs. Claus out there, and we had our wonderful, wonderful security team out there and maintenance staff to make sure that we had a very safe parade. We had one little breakdown, and let me tell you a maintenance hopped right in and towed that person right in and, and wound up winning one of the top three prizes. So doesn't matter if you break down or not, it just knows that you decorate your cart, and you spent a lot of good time doing it and it will pay off. Everybody, my hat's off to you. I thank you. I thank you, I thank you so much for spending the time that you did on your cards because it did this community proud. I want to say thank you very, very much to all of the families that were out along the parade route. It was amazing because the parade route went all the way down to the Jefferson gate from the from the Montecito clubhouse. And it did a turn around at Jefferson, went all the way back through the community down Sunset Boulevard, across Avenue 40, through phase three, all the way back down to the Madison gate turned around and came back. And I gotta tell you, people were there for both ways. When we went one way that were there, and we went back the other way they were there. And some of them even crossed the street so they could see it up close again. This community is absolutely wonderful. There are so many things that you guys are doing that make it a beautiful place to live.

John MacDonnell 03:00

Also, last night, I gotta tell you, I guess the holidays are emotional for me because I just I just thoroughly enjoy it. I enjoy the lights, the decorations. We had the menorah lighting celebration last night. And we had the ukulele club, there was a foursome up there that got up and did the ukulele. We had the singers up there. And they were just, they were just shouting it out, having a good time. The rabbi was doing all of his prayers, and then thoughts and things that he does. And, I got to tell you, I

had a I had a wonderful time. It's wonderful again, when people of different religions can come together and celebrate a good time in our lives. And so my hat's off to everybody. And, and it gets it just warms my heart.

John MacDonnell 03:56

I got a couple of other things. But we have two very, very, very, very special guests here today. We have Johnny Goodrum, who is, you know, all as our vice president of our association. And we have Kathy Lindstrom, who is the head of the food and beverage. We all know the talk out there on next door and all these other media places about what's going on with the Shadows and what are we going to do about it? And so I got a couple of things to talk to you about. And I have Kathy and Johnny here. I think what we'll do is we'll start with Kathy first. And Johnny is going to fill in a few things to let you know what's going on. But these are two very important people for our community. So please take a moment to listen to what they have to tell you. Kathy?

Kathy Lindstrom 04:46

Well, this week we have a new schedule for Shadows and that schedule will go through the entire month of December. And why do you say do we keep changing the schedule? Well, we have situation with labor shortage at this time. We lost several cooks from the kitchen, and so our chef Jeff Jacobson has been working seven days a week with 12 hour days, because in addition to the regular restaurant hours, we also have all the banquets and parties and celebrations that Jeff has been cooking for. So he requested a day off. And I think that is more than we could ever offer him here for one day. My goodness, we have to give the poor man a day off. So let us please have Monday off he requested. So that is what we are doing. We're shutting down the restaurant on Mondays. Well, then we had the football people, and what do you say to football and fried chicken, pasta nights, and prime rib have all in common? They will all be in the month of December. So for all the football fans, yes, we are opening up the restaurant from the hours of 4:00 to 7:30 or when ever the game ends. But during that time, we will not have kitchen staff available. So we'll have the bar open and Chef Jeff has put together a menu of football snacks, so that there will be cold snacks for you to order there will be the bar there will be the TV, and there will be a place for all the football fans to gather.

John MacDonnell 06:28

Hey, Johnny, I got a question. So you Kathy was talking about all these different things and was talking about Chef Jeff needing time off. You know, the there's been a lot of comments in the community about why did the board shut down the Shadows? And why are we doing this at the Shadows, when in fact, we actually just give guidelines to the Shadows. We don't really tell them what to do we only tell them what the board's point of view is. And they're the ones that make the decision on that. Is that correct?

Johnny Goodrum 07:01

Is Yes, John, that is correct. Troon runs the restaurant. And so we give them our input on certain events, certain operational decisions, but they make the final decision. It's not the board.

John MacDonnell 07:19

So I know a lot of people keep telling us and, and I know some of our board members, which is our team of five, we're team of five, and a lot of people keep saying, man, why are you guys doing this at

the shadows? Why this and that? But really, I mean, the chef has to have a day off, he can't work seven days a week. It's just if we do that, I mean, what's gonna happen to him?

Kathy Lindstrom 07:42

Burnout.

John MacDonnell 07:43

Burnout, and that's not going to work. So we have to have some give and take here. And Roland has put together the schedule, I believe, right, Kathy?

Kathy Lindstrom 07:53

Well, the Food and Beverage Advisory Committee and role and work together on this and I'm a numbers person. So I asked for the data, the data on when do we sell the most food? When do we have the most people in. So, at this time, Roland in the Food and Beverage Advisory Committee put together a schedule where we will not be having breakfast, we will not open up at eight o'clock on Tuesday through Friday. Instead we'll open up at 11 o'clock, but we will go later. Instead of closing at four like we did we're going to go 11 to seven. And so we found that there were more people who were eating dinner than there were breakfast. So I'm sorry for the Monday to Friday people who will not have breakfast. But on the weekends we will be open from eight to seven so that we can still have our weekend breakfast and our and our weekend brunch. So now with the later hours, we are able to have a pasta night in December. We're also able to have every Thursday fried chicken, folks, I'm bringing in the party of 14 on this Thursday, and also we'll be able to have prime rib night. Although two of those nights we will be closed. One is Christmas Day and the other one is when we have a special event there. On the calendar you will see several days that say closed, and those are due to the many special events that the Shadow staff is putting on and is serving and is cooking in either the Montecito or in the Shadows Restaurant and I have to give a big shout out because Manny and Luis and Roland and I worked all this week on the schedule trying to give the residents the best possible opportunity to have the type of dinners and breakfasts and lunches when they most want them

John MacDonnell 09:51

Kathy you know I got I've said this before and I'll say it again. And I said about the board members that we have, everybody has a valuable part of this team that makes this community the wonderful place it is to live. You are a very, very, very valuable person to this community. Because, the restaurant is a big place and in some of the hearts of the people here, and they expect to have good things there. And it's a big responsibility that you've taken on. And you've handled it really well, you're doing a great job there. And, and I hope to see a lot more of you in the in the future.

Kathy Lindstrom 10:31

Well, thanks, John. And what we did is look at the calendar, folks, we've put the things that you've liked the most. And now they're available during the month of December, and we want your holidays to be good. And we want you to bring in your guests and celebrate with your family. And the only thing that you'll need a reservation for is that prime rib night, and also for the pasta night. On the calendar, it tells you when to start the reservations, it will be two weeks before that pasta night.

John MacDonnell 11:02

That's great. Now, Johnny, you're also a very valuable part of this community too. And I'd like you to explain because a lot of people ask where does the board get their information from? Now, you're a liaison from the board to the Food and Beverage Committee. So what exactly is it that you're doing as the liaison?

Johnny Goodrum 11:22

Well, John, the liaison, the board liaisons act as a resource for the committee to have access to maybe what thoughts the board might have, on certain situations, on certain operational issues. They might ask the Board Liaison question like, well, what does the board think about this? How do you think the board would feel? And one thing that I wanted to point out, as Kathy has said, she's really big on numbers. And what we found out, although this is really kind of sad news, is that Shadows is only being utilized by 25%, of our resident population. And the board has looked at that, and said, we have got to dig into those numbers, and raise up that percentage. And so, to that end, I would ask all the residents out there, if you haven't been to Shadows lately, come back to Shadows, give it a try, and let's see if we can get our numbers up. Because it will only benefit all of us in the end. And that's what our focus is. So the board liaison is there to listen. The board liaison is not there, to put their two cents worth in. They're a resource for the committee, and a very valuable resource. And we have board liaisons to all our committees, and they're very important.

John MacDonnell 13:02

So Johnny, you, you've been on the board now, this is your second year. And you've been liaison to Food and Beverage the whole time. Where you the whole time that you've been on. Yes. So you've seen the changes then in the food and beverage, and you see the struggles and, and the day to day operations of everything that's going on as the Board Liaison, and you've worked really closely with the former member was Juergen, is that right? And then you've worked now with Kathy. And so you've seen a lot of the changes that's going on in the restaurant and how they're struggling a little bit with people, getting them to work. There. So, that's really cool. And then you do a lot of other things to your liaisons to a couple other committees. So that's, that's a wonderful thing that you do for this community.

Kathy Lindstrom 13:49

Well, Well, John, I'd like to say that, you know, Johnny's right here when he says he would like to have the community more involved with Shadows. And to that end, the ad hoc committee, which is looking at a feasibility study for Shadows, and what we want Shadows to be, we're going to be sending out a survey and that will be in your email next week. In that we would like to be forming some focus groups to look at shadows and to really make it the kind of place that our community would like. Do you want it to be a sports bar? Do you want it to be fine dining? Do you want it to be a place for golfers to drop in? What is your goal? What is your vision for Shadows. Many people, many different ideas. We like to take those visions and put them together, solidify them, so we know where we're going with Shadows in the future here. So, when you get that survey, fill it out, we want to know if you're one of the people who doesn't visit Shadows, why? You may be a good cook and you never go out. Maybe it's that you don't like Shadows because five years ago you had a bad situation at Shadows. We want to form focus groups from all different types of people. We want to look at people who have positive ideas for the future, we don't want to hear about the problems we have, we want to look at being problem solvers.

And to that end, we will look at these focus groups. So take the survey, even if you don't want to be in a focus group. If you do, there's a place for you to respond also. And what we're going to be is people looking ahead at what is the Shadows of the future, we want to bring Shadows out of the shadows.

John MacDonnell 15:35

Nice. Okay. I have a couple things more. One is, one of the things I forgot to tell you about on the golf cart parade. If you did not have an opportunity to go out to the golf cart parade. Good news, there are some videos online. And there will be pictures, I believe in The View or somewhere, maybe it's online as well, Connie was telling me where you can see the pictures of the floats . . . floats, I'm sorry, pictures of the golf carts. They literally were like floats, some of these those amazing, but pictures of the golf carts, and you can see some of that they're online.

John MacDonnell 16:12

Another thing is, the golf tournament is coming up on Sunday, December 5. You need to be at the starter at the pro shop by 7am. If you are in the golf tournament, you need to be there at 7am. Right now we have 26 or so . . . more than 26 I guess or whatever foursomes. And we have some people individuals. So you can sign up as an individual, you can sign up as a husband and wife, you can sign up as a couple, you can sign up as a threesome, and they will pair you up. So there's still some room for a few more foursomes, and then we will have the banquet afterwards at the Montecito clubhouse. So that's for the golf tournament.

John MacDonnell 16:59

Now, the Jefferson ponds, a lot of people been calling me and emailing me, what's going on with the Jefferson ponds? Well, if you remember the last podcast, I said that we had to keep it close for an extra few days other than the regular time that we were planning. Well, it turns out, we don't have to keep it close the next few days, we are still going to reopen on the original date of December 1st. The Jefferson ponds will be open on Wednesday, December 1, so that you can go out there and enjoy those ponds, the grass is ready to go. Be careful, there's a couple of areas where we had a pipe break. And you just need to be careful in those areas and they will probably still be coned off a little bit in those areas.

John MacDonnell 17:43

Next is the vendors. We have been talking to you from the board the team, the entire team has been talking to people about the vendor parking. Make sure that we still have our vendors parking on one side of the street, not both sides of the street because some of our streets are very narrow. And if somebody comes down the street and they feel very uncomfortable about trying to get through where the vendors are parked, then they're even more comfortable trying to back up and turn around. It's very difficult. So if you have vendors make sure that the if they have multiple trucks there that they are parking on the same side of the street, and not on both sides of the street so they get to the house easier.

John MacDonnell 18:25

Let's see. So we have the ABBA Fab. The ABBA Fab concert is coming up on Thursday, March 10, at seven o'clock pm that is sold out, Sold out! Sold out completely! But Connie heard you. She heard you

saying why? Why is it sold out? And so they have added a matinee at 4pm on the same day Thursday, so you can come in earlier than everybody else that originally bought their tickets for the later one. And you can see ABBA Fab first. You just got to go to the Lifestyles desk and buy your tickets and see Connie and the folks over there and they'll get you all set up with that. Okay, any questions on that feel free to call them directly.

John MacDonnell 19:18

We also have the Holiday Jazz Brunch. That is Saturday, December 4 That's coming up this Saturday. So we have signups still available. The Jazz brunch will be at the Montecito clubhouse from 11am to 2pm. It's \$50 per person. And you can sign up there again at the Montecito Clubhouse, at the Lifestyles desk. So, make sure if you're looking for a good morning of jazz, an early afternoon of jazz, that you sign up for that brunch and go there and enjoy yourselves.

John MacDonnell 19:51

The last thing that I have for you, and I'm sorry this was a long one but I had a lot of information I want to get out to you, is that the last board meeting The board voted to go ahead and draft a statement for the election coming up in April. And what it is, is it's an amendment, and it is going to require all of us to vote. If you choose to vote, whichever way you want to vote, you can, okay, I'm not saying to vote yes or no, I'm just saying whatever you want to do. And that is so that we can enter into a five year contract with services that we have around this community. Now, I've been advised that we are a little bit behind the times, because we're still in a one year contract situation where almost everybody else now is in a five year. So, it makes it very difficult for us to do certain shopping around if we only have a one year contract, because not many people want to do that. If we enter into a five year contract, and then that five, five year contract would be a way for us to be able, we could cancel that contract, if the person is not performing after the first year, we can cancel within 90 days. And that would protect us from getting into a five year contract where it would be kind of scary. And that that's a big thing for us to be able to protect ourselves for that. So this is a this is going to require 1,761 votes for yes, for it to pass. Now, I just going to tell you get out and vote, I'm going to tell you every time now until the day of the election, we need you to get out and vote to make your choice on what you would like to do. Now one of the big places that this would allow us to make a change in our in our community is that we could enter into a five year contract at the restaurant. So if we wanted to have somebody come in and take over the restaurant, or whatever we wanted to do. Or have Troon, if we want to try and negotiate a contract with us for five years, we can do that. It can be anybody. But that will help us get ourselves into the current time with everybody else, going to a five year contract. So there'll be a lot more information coming out before the election. And I'm sure we'll do email blasts in regards to what that's all about. So I just want to start telling everybody about it now. Because before we know April is going to be here, and the vote is going to be here, and we don't want to be short on votes. We want everybody to vote. And we'll have votes for three new board members as well. So you get out and vote. We need you to vote, vote, vote.

John MacDonnell 22:36

Anyway, this is Big John, I've given you a lot of information. Thank you for all of your patience and your time. Thank you for all you do around the community and thank you for everything. So, have a great day and we'll be seeing you out there in the community. Bye!